



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-1849, **Agenda Item #:** 18.

5/6/2021

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Front Steps, Inc. to provide non-congregate emergency shelter services for persons experiencing homelessness who are at higher risks of negative health complications due to COVID-19, in an amount not to exceed \$1,255,787 for a nine-month term from May 15, 2021 through January 31, 2022.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Public Health.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$1,255,787 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund. The Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act contract period is July 22, 2020 to July 22, 2022.

### **Prior Council Action:**

July 29, 2020 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20200729-052 to accept and appropriate grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act to serve individuals experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19, on a 10-0 vote, with Mayor Adler off the dais.

April 23, 2020 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20200423-070 to accept and appropriate grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act to serve individuals experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness who have been economically impacted by COVID-19, on an 11-0 vote.

### **For More Information:**

Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Director, 512-972-5010; Adrienne Sturup, Assistant Director, 512-972-5167; Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Social Services Policy Unit Manager, 512-972-5567; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5045.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Approval of this item will authorize Austin Public Health to negotiate and execute an agreement with Front Steps to provide non-congregate emergency shelter at the former Rodeway Inn, which has been serving as a COVID-19 Protection Lodge. This agreement will be negotiated for a term of nine months with no extension options.

This funding was a part of the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act competitive request for applications titled "RFA#008 ESG CV-2 2020 NPS" released on August 20, 2020 for rapid rehousing, which did not result in an award. CARES Act funding for homeless services is coordinated through the CARES Act Funding Team comprised of representatives of Austin Public Health staff from Homeless Services Division, Social Services Planning Unit, and the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (also known as HUD) notified the City of an initial

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CARES Act award of \$2,354,866 on April 8, 2020 and later notified the City of an additional CARES Act award of \$10,859,249 on June 9, 2020, all to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic among individuals and families experiencing homelessness or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the effects of homelessness.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment; Economic Opportunity and Affordability.